

God is the Gospel

by John Piper

Let me make a pitch for a book that I think is very special. Normally I am not a John Piper fan--he is doctrinally very sound, but he has a style that at times is a bit too melodramatic for my tastes. But his book, **God is the Gospel**, is an exception.

As you know, for those who leave our church due to job transfers, moving, etc., we present them with a copy of **God is the Gospel** signed by all the church members as a departure gift. This is an excellent book that deftly explains that the end result of the proclamation of the gospel for the believer is not eternal life. Piper shows how eternal life is nothing without the presence of Christ in all of His glory. Piper cites the "anchor verse" of John Knox (John 17:3) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" as one of many biblical proofs that the gospel is more than a new convert "getting saved." The gospel is the vehicle of introduction for knowing God through the glory of Christ in an intimate and eternal sense. Piper convincingly argues that any use of the gospel for any other purpose than knowing and relishing the glory of God through the face of Christ is self-centered idolatry. He states, "Jesus must be the supreme treasure of our lives, if we are true disciples of Jesus. Jesus died for us and rose again to make it possible for us to see Him and savor Him above all things with everlasting joy. This is the great good the gospel is meant to accomplish."

If you are member of GRBC, don't wait to leave the church before you read this book. Get a copy of **God is the Gospel** and pass it around. John Piper presents profound truths for an anemically weak (that is, no blood--particularly Christ's blood), and therefore inconsequential modern church. Through his book, John Piper has given us 21st century Christians a needed reality check.

Mike Thompson